

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION



Information Letter



FOR N. C. A. MEMBERS

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Labeling of Canned Beans

A letter received by the Association from the Food, Drug and Insecticide Administration gives the following information as to the use of "Boston Style" and "New England Style" in labeling canned beans:

"It occurs to us that the situation with respect to canned beans represented as 'Boston Style' or 'New England Style' is not analogous to that arising with 'Maine Style' corn in one important respect, at least. In the case of corn there is involved the question of locality in which the corn is grown. It is doubtful if many of the beans used in New England actually are grown there. We do not believe that the terms referred to, therefore, necessarily give the impression that beans grown in New England are to be expected in a product so labeled.

"It would seem that the terms 'Boston Style' and 'New England Style' are designations describing processes of preparation. There would, therefore, appear to be no objection to the use of either of these terms on beans prepared by baking with pork and molasses without tomato sauce, following the practice recognized as being used in the locality named. In consideration of the appropriateness of the terms in question on beans, it should be remembered that they are only applicable to beans which have undergone an actual baking process as that process is commonly understood. If the beans have not undergone such baking, we believe the use of the terms 'Boston Style' and 'New England Style' are misleading and, therefore, not in keeping with the provisions of the Federal Food and Drugs Act."

Truck Crop Markets

Combined movement of 27 fruits and vegetables during the week ended May 5 totaled 17,640 cars, according to the Market News Service of the Department of Agriculture, which was an increase of about 11 per cent over the preceding week, but fewer cars than a year ago. Weather damage to truck crops is reported, especially in the southeast, and the shipping season for numerous crops is delayed. Fruit prospects in general are very promising. Shipments of tomatoes from the West Coast of Florida may be somewhat reduced. The import season for Mexican tomatoes is drawing to a close; receipts dropped to 165 cars last week. About 3,900 cars have been imported to date from Mexico, and 900 from Cuba. This is an increase of about one-third from Cuba, but a decrease of about one-sixth from Mexico. Tomatoes and other truck crops damaged by the April freeze in Arkansas, are being largely replanted.

CARLOT SHIPMENTS

	April 29 to May 5 1928	April 22-28 1928	May 1-7 1927	Total this season to May 5	Total last season to May 7	Total last season
Apples, total	549	603	728	90,654	131,334	133,849
Western	407	407	300	47,092	53,200	54,371
Eastern	142	196	428	43,562	78,134	79,478
Asparagus, total	257	262	198	2,187	1,559	2,145
California	92	111	74	1,579	898	1,147
Other	165	151	124	608	661	998
Cabbage:						
1928 season	815	613	539	10,170	11,120	38,839
1927 season	32	74	2	38,839	40,514	40,515
Carrots:						
1928 season	219	311	(a)	3,623	(a)	6,485
1927 season	62	80	(a)	6,485	(a)	1,252
Cherries	30	6	2	36	2	1,460
Cucumbers	152	256	541	705	1,875	8,179
Peas	264	231	236	1,579	1,533	4,189
Mixed vegetables:						
Domestic shipments..	990	1,142	1,106	14,403	14,462	35,062
Imports	14	10	9	364	195	299
Peppers:						
Domestic shipments..	82	102	55	1,490	904	2,817
Imports	15	17	16	700	975	1,004
Spinach	323	298	212	9,282	8,960	9,655
Strawberries	1,441	768	2,368	4,321	8,008	17,893
String beans	264	348	547	2,729	3,025	6,461
Sweet potatoes	170	238	282	22,235	23,757	25,736
Tomatoes:						
Domestic shipments..	816	747	1,194	4,458	7,465	32,521
Imports	164	279	122	4,767	5,288	5,426

(a) Unavailable

Weather and Crops

The week ended May 8 brought to the principal agricultural sections of the country, in general, much better weather than had recently prevailed for field work, for germination and growth of crops, and for farming operations, according to the weekly report of the U. S. Weather Bureau. The week, in gen-

eral, had a continuation of rather cool weather in the Southern States, but elsewhere east of the Rocky Mountains there was a marked reaction to much warmer, with the weekly mean temperatures practically everywhere ranging from near normal to as much as 6 degrees to 8 degrees above. West of the Rockies warm weather continued.

From the Mississippi Valley eastward, and generally in the west Gulf area, precipitation was mostly light, except that it was heavy in parts of the Southeast, principally in northern Georgia, South Carolina, and western North Carolina. There were substantial falls also in the central Rocky Mountains and in much of the central Great Plains, being especially timely and beneficial in Nebraska and adjoining sections. West of the Rocky Mountains precipitation during the week was very light, with most districts receiving inappreciable amounts.

Truck was in fair to good condition generally in the South, and was doing well in the Southwest. Citrus were doing well in Florida and were advancing normally in California. Fruit trees have commenced to bloom in parts of the Lake region and mostly fair to good condition was noted in the South and Middle Atlantic States; there was some injury in the Appalachian Mountains by the heavy snow of last week.

Heavy abandonment of winter wheat, which will tend to increase the planting of alternative crops, was the outstanding feature of the crop report issued by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics on May 9. The abandonment of winter wheat is estimated at 25.1 per cent.

The condition of peaches in ten Southern States on May 1 was reported as 73.8 per cent of normal, compared with 42.7 per cent a year ago and 57.2 per cent two years ago. Prospects are best in Georgia, where the chief complaint is that the frequent rains have washed off the sprays. Prospects are lower towards the west and are poorest in Oklahoma and in portions of Texas and Arkansas, where the April freeze caused much damage.

Truck Crop Prospects

Cantaloupes.—Production of cantaloupes in the early-shipping states is estimated at 5,536,000 crates as compared with 6,156,000 in 1927. This estimate is based on a lower acreage but a better yield per acre than last year.

Watermelons.—The average condition of watermelons on May 1 was 65 per cent, as compared with 77 per cent on May 1

last year, and an average of 73 per cent for the 5 years ending with 1927.

Onions.—The indicated onion acreage in the late-shipping states is estimated at 48,520 as compared with 49,940 acres in 1927. This acreage, combined with preliminary estimates for the early and intermediate shipping states, indicates a total of 79,990 acres in onions in 1928, as compared with 76,020 acres in 1927.

Pending Legislation

Agricultural appropriations.—The conference report on the bill (H. R. 11577) making appropriations for the Department of Agriculture was adopted by the House on May 5. The conference report retained the Senate amendments appropriating \$10,000 for investigation of the phony disease of peaches and \$13,000 for investigations relative to spoilage of canned foods, metallic poisons, etc. It struck out the Senate provision for \$15,000 for publication of a handbook on fruit and vegetable diseases and \$15,000 for studies relative to the precooling of fruits before shipment, but provided \$5,000 for investigation of apple washing to remove effects of arsenical sprays and \$5,000 for investigations relative to substitutes for arsenical sprays.

Bureau of Fisheries.—The bill (H. R. 13383) providing for a five-year construction and maintenance program for the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries was passed by the House on May 8, and now goes to the Senate.

Chain stores.—Under the provisions of a resolution (S. Res. 224) introduced by Senator Brookhart, the Federal Trade Commission would be directed to inquire into the extent of chain store marketing with a view to determining whether violations are taking place and whether the chain stores are susceptible to Federal regulation. As noted in the Information Letter for April 21, a resolution (H. R. 14148) was introduced in the House directing the Federal Trade Commission to investigate and report upon chain stores.

Labeling nuts, etc.—The House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce has reported without amendment the bill (H. R. 13071) amending the Food and Drugs Act so as to require the labeling of imported nuts and raw and dried fruits and vegetables to show the country of origin.

Standards for hampers.—The House on May 7 passed the bill (H. R. 8907) fixing standards for hampers, round stave baskets, and splint baskets for fruits and vegetables. The bill

provides that the standard hampers and round stave baskets shall have the following capacities: One-eighth bushel, one-fourth bushel, one-half bushel, three-fourths bushel, one bushel, one-and-one-half bushels, and two bushels. It is provided, however, that nothing contained in the bill shall prohibit or interfere with the farmers or market gardeners, or others, using five-eighths-bushel baskets in gathering, delivering and selling their products to canning, packing or wholesale houses. The Senate on May 8 passed a companion bill (S. 2148), but so amended it as to include the five-eighth bushel basket as a standard container.

Labeling of Artificially Flavored Beverages

The Federal Trade Commission has reaffirmed its previous rulings which permit a manufacturer or bottler to use representations or statements to the effect that a beverage product is an imitation of a designated fruit flavor, but has ruled further that the name of a fruit may not be used as a corporate trade name or as a trade brand or designation for products composed in part of the fruit or juice of the fruit as indicated, unless the product shall derive its color and flavor from said fruit. It has ruled still further that in all statements to the effect that the product is an imitation of a designated fruit flavor, the name of the fruit shall be preceded by the word "imitation" and printed in type equally as conspicuous as the name of the fruit.

Government Purchases

The Quartermaster Supply Officer of the War Department at Brooklyn, N. Y., has advertised for bids for various supplies, including canned foods, to be opened on May 18. Copies of the schedules (No. 626-28-191, No. 626-28-192, and No. 626-28-193) may be obtained by addressing the Quartermaster Supply Officer at First Avenue and 58th Street, Brooklyn.

Grocers and Brokers to Meet in New Orleans

The thirty-first annual convention of the National Association of Retail Grocers will be held in New Orleans July 11 to 14. The headquarters of the convention will be at the Hotel Roosevelt. A sectional meeting of the National Wholesale Grocers Association will be held in the same city on June 11-13, and there will also be held on June 12 the third informal meeting of the National Food Brokers Association.

Vegetables and Vitamins

In the May issues of the Ladies' Home Journal and of Good Housekeeping, there are timely articles on green vegetables. In the former magazine, Dr. Mary Swartz Rose, Professor of Nutrition in Teachers College, Columbia University, writing on "What are green vegetables," emphasizes the value of green vegetables actually green in color as a source of vitamin A, but calls attention to the fact that vitamin A is not limited to vegetables of that color, indicating tomatoes and carrots as striking illustrations. Incidentally, she calls attention to the fact that canned tomatoes and peas are rich sources of vitamin C as well as of the other vitamins.

In Good Housekeeping, Dr. Walter H. Eddy calls attention to the value of vegetables as sources of vitamins and mineral salts as compared with various other types of food. In this connection he brings out the fact that "green" should not be taken in its literal sense, since all vegetables contain more or less of all the vitamins, although the bleached vegetables are not so rich in vitamin A. He gives the following interesting table bearing on the vitamin C content of peas in various forms, as shown by the amount necessary per day to keep a guinea pig from getting scurvy:

	Amount needed: Ounce
Raw uncooked peas	0.066
The same peas boiled on kitchen stove 12-15 minutes in open pan..	0.166
Small peas commercially canned and cooked 25 minutes in sealed can at 128 degrees F	0.100
Large peas commercially canned and cooked 25 minutes in sealed can at 248 degrees F	0.133
Average peas commercially canned and cooked 25 minutes in sealed can at 248 degrees F.....	0.133
Average canned peas poured from can into pan and reheated to boiling	0.133

He then goes on to explain why canning is possible with so little loss of vitamin C, and summarizes as follows:

"Like most mysteries the phenomenon is clear when we know the facts. They explain why commercial canning is really an excellent way to conserve vitamin C value of fruits and vegetables, for by actual tests in my laboratory we know that canning produces little destruction of the vitamin C value of peas, apples, peaches, string beans, tomatoes, strawberries and spinach.

"These results, coupled with the fact that if the can water is used, the contents suffer little loss of the other food values of the natural product, have gone far to reassure us that we are getting full vegetable value when we buy canned products."

Foreign Trade Notes

Australia will have available for export about 250,000 cases of canned fruits from this year's pack, and in view of the problem of finding a market the Export Control Board has lowered the minimum prices for fruit shipped to New Zealand. Keen competition is expected in New Zealand from United States.

Exports of canned pineapple from British Malaya in January of the present year totaled 4,701 tons as compared with 1,335 tons in the same month last year, according to the Food-stuffs Division of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. Of the exports this year the United Kingdom took 4,701 tons.

Stocks of canned fruits in the Marseille district of France are much heavier than six months ago, according to the American Consul, because foreign canners, in anticipation of the recent increase in the tariff, shipped extensively to that market. Two large French fruit canners are reported to be increasing their output, but they are not serious competitors of American canners of pineapple, peaches, pears and apricots. Some canned pineapple from Martinique recently appeared on the Marseille market at about the same price as American pineapple, but inferior in quality. Nothing has developed from the attempt of Russian firms to enter the Marseille market for canned fruit, because the Russian product was found inferior in quality and in packing.

In connection with the reported 10-year monopoly concession for the manufacture of condensed and evaporated milk in Peru, the American Vice Consul at Callao-Lima states that Peru's total imports of canned milk in 1926 amounted to about 8,800,000 pounds, of which the United States supplied 7,700,000. At the present time canned milk is on the free list. The monopoly concession recently approved provides for the establishment of the industry within two years.

Beets for Canning

Gratifying progress has been made in the production of an early, round, solid, dark red-fleshed beet for canning, according to the Forty-Sixth Annual Report of the Agricultural Experiment Station at Wooster, Ohio. The production of seed from several of the most promising lines will be started this year and it is expected that sufficient seed will soon be available for preliminary tests by canners and others.

Simplified Containers for Vegetable Shortening

A simplified practice recommendation which reduces the variety of containers for vegetable shortening from 35 to 10 was approved by a general conference of manufacturers, distributors, and organized users, held at the Department of Commerce on May 9. The conference designated September 1, 1928, as the effective date for new production of containers under the approved recommendation, allowing until January 1, 1929, for disposition of present stocks.

Business Conditions

The dollar volume of trade during the week ended May 5, as indicated by figures covering check payments, was greater than in either the preceding week or the corresponding week of last year, according to the weekly statement of the Department of Commerce. The general level of wholesale prices again advanced fractionally, practically reaching the 1926 average.

Loans and discounts of Federal Reserve member banks expanded during the week, reaching a point higher than at any other time on record. Loans to brokers and dealers by Federal Reserve member banks in New York City reached a new high point during the week. Interest rates on time money, showing no change from the preceding week, were higher than a year ago, while rates on call money averaged higher than in either prior period.

Sales of retail firms in April, as indicated by preliminary reports to the Federal Reserve System, were smaller than in April, 1927. The unfavorable comparison with last year reflects in considerable part the fact that the number of trading days in the month was smaller this year by one day and that the date of Easter was earlier in the month. Department store sales were smaller than a year ago in all sections of the country, the largest declines being in the Boston, Philadelphia, Cleveland, and Minneapolis districts, where they amounted to more than 10 per cent. In the San Francisco district sales were only 2 per cent less than in April of last year, the smallest decline for any district.

CAR LOADINGS

	Total	Miscellaneous	Merchandise and L.C.L.	Other
Week ended April 28	861,928	384,646	259,196	318,086
Preceding week	844,694	384,469	259,359	300,866
Corresponding week, 1927	1,021,576	395,725	260,236	365,615
Corresponding week, 1926	995,408	386,570	262,874	345,964